Cancer, how it occurs, why it is deadly, and what are the current treatments

What is cancer, and how does it occur

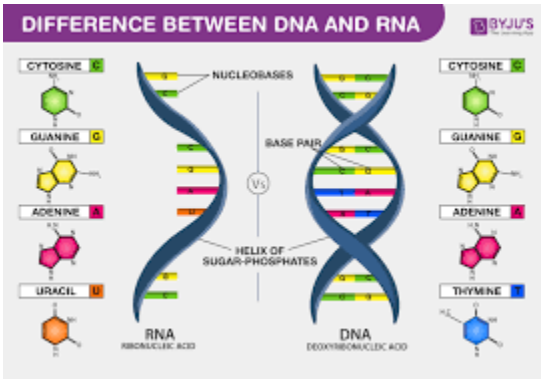
Cancer is when a cell or a group of cells go through a mutation which causes their genetic information to be corrupted. When this happens, the cells start to rapidly and uncontrollably divide and multiply and to direct more and more resources and blood and blood vessel connections towards this group of cells (which is called a tumor). Now, normally, the cell's self-destruct mechanism WOULD have stopped tis, but, when genetic alterations are made, the cell completely overrides any mechanism which would stop the spread of the tumor. Now, this tumor continuously keeps tricking the body into thinking that it is just a bunch of healthy cells, and hence, making the body divert more and more resources towards the tumor, and not just resources, but also vital components of the body like blood. The tumor also tricks the body into making more and more blood vessel connections to the tumor in order to supply the ever-growing tumor.

What can cause a mutation?
We understood how cancer can occur, due to a genetic modification, but what can cause this genetic modification. Well, actually, there are a number of reasons, let us go over a few of them.

Radiation – Radiation, particularly ionizing radiation (radiation which can ionize particles) can hit the DNA (where the genetic information is stored. Full form-Deoxyribonucleic acid) and change the order of the proteins that make up the DNA, hence causing a genetic mutation.

Hereditary Causes – As genetic information is carried from the parents, a cancer that happened in the family prior may carry the corrupted genetic information to the descendants of the family

Duplication error – When a cell multiplies, it copies it's genetic information to the other cell, however, when it is copying the genetic information, it does not directly copy the DNA to the other cell, but rather takes half of the DNA, which is not a double strand of genetic information, but instead a single strand, like so



Based on one side of the RNA, the other side is made, making the full DNA, but, when there is an error in this process, then, a genetic mutation, causing cancer (I some cases)

The types of tumors-

Benign tumors – Benign tumors are tumors that do not show traits of rapid and uncontrollable growth, which, makes them, on average, less deadly than the other type of tumor, Malignant tumors, as they can usually be removed from the body with surgery, if not in vital parts of the body. If, however, the tumor is in a vital part of the body, such as the brain, the tumor can effectively “push” on the brain tissue, causing significant damage.

Malignant tumors – Tumors that do show signs of rapid and uncontrollable growth and are much more harmful than benign tumors are called “malignant tumors”. These tumors can quickly spread across the whole body, causing much more direct damage to the body, and hence, are much more deadly.

Note – What we refer to cancer is just the formation of tumors in a particular part of the body.

The current treatments available

Today, one of the most widely used techniques for curing cancer is to use radioactive material to give radiation damage to the tumor to kill the cells that are part of the tumor, however, it can also kill healthy cells that are not part of the tumor. Another is to simply use venom to kill the tumor. If the tumor is a benign tumor, that is not located in vital areas of the body, it can also be extracted surgically.

In some instances, gold that is made radioactive is used for the radioactive treatment.

Why there is no cure for cancer

As we learned, cancer occurs as tumors, which occur differently in every single human being, they all vary, hence, there is no one cure for cancer

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